



Welaka Gazette

April 2022

From The Mayor's Desk

April is upon us, and we have a busy month ahead. We are excited about the American Rescue Plan Open House that the Town is holding on April 7, 2022, at 6:00 PM. The purpose of the Open House is to get input from the residents on how you wish to see the Town spend the \$359,112.00 that we are receiving from the Federal Government. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the Town, so please come out that evening and make your voice heard. I promise you that your Welaka Town Council wants to listen to your input, and it will be a significant part of our decision-making on how to spend the money.

We are also holding a Golf Cart Ordinance Workshop on April 14, 2022, at 5:30 PM at Welaka Town Hall to discuss our new Golf Cart Ordinance and to get your input. Let me set your mind at ease; the Welaka Town Council has no interest in getting rid of Golf Carts. We consider it part of what makes Welaka a great place to live. However, we are concerned about people driving on CR 309 and CR308 B as it's dangerous. This will be addressed in the Ordinance. I encourage you to please come out that night and ask questions and give us your input.

On an operational note, the staff at Welaka Town Hall recently spent 4 hours testing new software that will improve all aspects of your interaction with the Town. It will allow you to receive your water bills by email and a more flexible way to pay your account, via text or over the telephone. It includes a new accounting software that will allow us to keep a closer eye on how we spend your tax dollars and ensure we spend them wisely. It consists of a new online building permit section that will allow you to apply, pay for, and receive a building permit entirely online. You will also be able to check the status of an inspection and receive input from the building inspector/department about any concerns they may have. We anticipate this will dramatically reduce the time to get a building permit and streamline the entire process. We will be holding a workshop soon to allow you to preview the new software before we make any purchases.

On a Town events front, we are very excited about all the great event opportunities in the Town this month. They include Food Truck Friday, starting Friday, April 1 at 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM at Jefferson Smith Park by the Dollar General Store. There will be great food and live music all evening. There will be a designated parking area for golf carts and will help us to safely manage traffic. As parking is limited, I ask if you have a properly registered golf cart, to please consider driving it that evening. We are also excited about our first Jazz Under the Stars concert at Jefferson Smith Park on April 23, 2022, at 7:00 PM. We will be hosting "Sleek Bank," an amazing Jazz band. Food will also be available

that evening. Please come out and join us for these great events, and please let your Events Committee members know how much you appreciate their hard work in hosting these events.

Finally, I wanted to update you on some big projects we are doing in the Town. First, I have contacted Mittauer and Associates. They are a Civil Engineering Firm specializing in road engineering. I recently spoke to the Mayor of Interlachen, and he highly recommends them as they are the ones that did the engineering for their roads. My discussions with them included the start of the engineering process for paving our streets in Welaka. Before paving can occur, we need to have the engineering and specifications of the roads to present to the paving contractors for them to bid on. They say that "A journey of a thousand miles starts with the first step!" This is the first step. We are also getting ready to open the process for engineering bids for our new Wastewater Treatment Plant. As you have heard me say countless times, this new advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant will be a game-changer for the Town. The Town has also applied to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity for a job growth infrastructure grant for \$3.3 million dollars to help fully fund our new Wastewater Plant. I intend to ensure that the new Wastewater Treatment Plant is fully funded by grant and legislative appropriation dollars and not by our residents. I will keep you informed on our progress.

In closing, as I am sitting here writing this and asking you, the residents of Welaka, to please give us your input, it reminds me of Abraham Lincoln's statement from the Gettysburg Address. "That government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the Earth." This is one of the bedrock principles of our Nation; therefore, it is so critical that we hear from you, the residents of our Town. This is your government and can only function properly when you are a part of it. Part of your participation starts with casting your vote for whom you want to represent you. But it goes further because "government for the people" can only occur when the people let their elected officials know what they want. I realize that not all parts of the government in the United States necessarily invite this type of participation. Still, I can assure you that your Welaka Town Council certainly does and wants to hear from you. Until next month, I hope everyone enjoys Spring in Welaka and all its opportunities.

Best Regards,
Mayor Jamie D. Watts

From The Council President

April is here! We likely won't see cold weather until the end of the year, which is a good thing for most Floridians who enjoy the warm Florida weather. April is also Keep America Beautiful Month, which coincides perfectly with our next town-wide community clean-up, to be held on April 9th at 8:00 AM. At the end of last year, the local non-profit, Friends of Welaka, voted to hold these cleanup events on a quarterly, rather than annual, basis. The first clean-up this year was held on January 8th and over 30 volunteers showed up to help! Although Friends of Welaka, along with Keep Putnam Beautiful, sponsors this event, please know that you do not need to be a member to participate.

Here's how it works: At 8:00 AM, coffee and snacks will be available at the Town Hall Pavilion. Supplies, such as trash bags, grabbers, and gloves will be passed out. You will need to bring your own hat and sunscreen, and we recommend wearing closed-toe shoes. Next, we designate small groups with a Team Leader for each group. We'll then venture out into the neighborhoods by 9:00 AM. The Team Leaders will have a golf cart to carry water and additional supplies. They will be responsible for

keeping track of each member in their group and covering the streets that they are assigned. In a few short hours, we will have covered each and every street in Welaka!

If interested in volunteering, or if you have additional questions, please contact me at jfinch@welaka-fl.gov. You can also just show up! Keep in mind, this event will be held quarterly, so if you can't make this one, July and October will be here before you know it! If you haven't volunteered for the community clean-up in the past, you are truly missing a wonderful opportunity to meet your neighbors and help beautify the Town we all love.

In Your Service,
Jessica Finch
Welaka Town Council President



Need A Meeting With Your Mayor?

To schedule a meeting with your Mayor, please go to www.MayorWatts.com and select the date and time that works for you.



DO YOU HAVE NEWS FOR THE TOWN OF WELAKA?? PUBLISH IN THE WELAKA GAZETTE!!

For more information, please contact Welaka Town Clerk Meghan Allmon at TownClerk@welaka-fl.gov or call her at (386) 524-4010

March's Recognitions and Proclamations

- Proclamation 2022-03 Proclaiming March 2022 as Women's History Month in the Town of Welaka

If you would like to recognize a Town of Welaka resident for dedicated community service to our Town, a local student with exceptional grades, or to nominate a Town resident who is celebrating a landmarked birthday such as turning 100 years old, please contact our Town Clerk, Meghan Allmon at (386) 524-4010 or email: townclerk@welaka-fl.gov. We will be happy to recognize them at our next Council Meeting by public recognition.



Eyeglass Recycling – How You Can Help

South Putnam Lion Club would like to remind you that you can drop your unused glasses by Welaka Town Hall in the drop-box in the main hallway. Donate glasses and change someone's life. Imagine if you could help a child read, an adult succeeds in their job, a senior maintains their independence, and provide our community with more opportunities to grow and thrive.



Welaka 3rd Saturdays Makers Market

On April 16th from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM the Welaka Woman's Club will be hosting a Maker's Market including Food, A Bake Sale, Artisans, Crafters & Flea Market Finds. Their address is 644 CR 309, Welaka Fl. 32193.



Need To Report An Issue Or Make A Codes Complaint?

Need to report a street or parks issue or make a Codes Enforcement Complaint report online at www.TellTownHall.com



Helping Hands of Welaka Toy Drive

Helping Hands of Welaka is collecting toys to give out to the children who attend the Welaka Christmas Parade & Festival in December of this year. If you would like to donate, please contact Harriet Vanslyke at (631) 764 - 2308



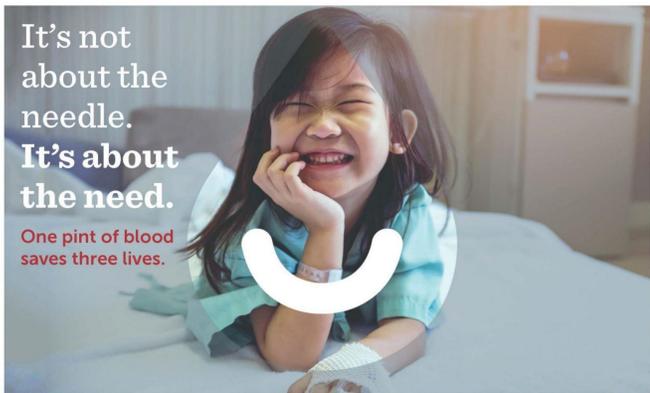
Sunrise Service

Welaka Baptist Church and Welaka Methodist Church will both be hosting their Easter Sunrise Services at 7:00 AM, they would like to invite the community to come out and join them that morning.

A Moment in History



Lighthouse on Lake George at the mouth of the St. Johns River.
Built in 1877, served also as Post Office for Silver Glen and Pat's Island. Inhabited by Capt. Lansing from 1877 to 1920. Swept away by the hurricane in 1964.



Give local. Save local.

Welaka Town Hall Blood Drive

Thursday, April 7

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Donate Platelets, Double Reds, or Plasma receive \$20 E-Gift Card!

1 Donor will win a \$50 Shrimps-R-Us Gift Card!

All donors will receive a recognition item and a free cholesterol screening. Donors must be 16 or older, weigh at least 110 pounds, and show photo I.D. 16-year-olds require written parental permission.



Statement of Votes Cast

General Election

Town of Welaka

March 08, 2022

SOVC for: All Contests, All Districts, Election Day, Absentee

OFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS

Precinct	Registered Voters	Cards Cast
04 - Town of Welaka	648	259

Town Council Member (Vote for 2)

Precinct	Jessica Finch	Eddie Johns	Alexa "Lexi" Penonard	Kathy L. Washington
Town of Welaka				
Election Day	139	65	41	109
Absentee	40	12	23	41
Provisional	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	179	77	64	150

Jamie D. Watts

 Jamie Watts, Mayor, Canvassing Board Member

James L. Wynn

 James L. Wynn, Town Council, Canvassing Board Member

Marianne Milledge

 Marianne Milledge, Town Council, Canvassing Board Member

We Need Your Input Welaka AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN OPEN HOUSE

APRIL 7, 2022 @ 6:-00PM @ WELAKA TOWN HALL

TO GET INPUT ON HOW YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE
THE TOWN SPEND THE \$359,120.00
IN AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDS, WE ARE RECEIVING



TOWN OF WELAKA CONTACT LIST:

Welaka Police Department

Michael Porath - Police Chief

Direct Line: 386-524-4015
Town Hall Extension: 107
mporath@welaka-fl.gov

Welaka Municipal Services

Meghan Allmon - Town Clerk

Direct Line: 386-524-4010
Town Hall Extension: 102
townclerk@welaka-fl.gov

Welaka Utility Department

Kendrea Welch - Utility Clerk

Direct Line: 386-524-4016
Town Hall Extension: 103
utility@welaka-fl.gov

Welaka Building Department

Justin Morris - Building Inspector

Direct Line: 386-524-4013
Town Hall Extension: 105
building@welaka-fl.gov

Public Works Department

John Stuart - General Maintenance Supervisor

Direct Line: 386-546-2338
jstuart@welaka-fl.gov

Code Enforcement

Pauline Kinney - Code Enforcement Officer

Direct Line: 386-530-0336
codes@welaka-fl.gov

Mayor's Office

Mayor Jamie Watts

(386) 467-9800 Extension: 101
Direct: 386-524-4009
jwatts@welaka-fl.gov

Welaka Town Council

Council President Jessica Finch

386-467-9800 (Option 7, Option 2)
Town Hall Extension: 200
jfinch@welaka-fl.gov

Councilwoman Marianne Milledge

386-467-9800 (Option 7, Option 3)
Town Hall Extension: 201
mmilledge@welaka-fl.gov

Councilwoman Tonya Long

386-467-9800 (Option 7, Option 4)
Town Hall Extension: 202
tonyalong@welaka-fl.gov

Councilwoman Kathy Washington

386-467-9800 (Option 7, Option 5)
Town Hall Extension: 203
kwashington@welaka-fl.gov

Welaka Town Attorney

Patrick Kennedy - Town Attorney

Direct Line: (386) 244-4910
townattorney@welaka-fl.gov

Welaka Spring Festival Pickleball Tournament

Hosted by:
Smashing Tournaments

APRIL 8TH, 9TH & 10TH

409 Palmetto St.
Welaka, Florida 32193

REGISTER AT:
Pickleballbrackets.com

Activities include:
Men's Doubles
Women's Doubles
Mixed Doubles
Men's & Women's Singles
Bounce House
Food
Games
Craft Vendors

Egg Hunt 12pm
1pm: "Bonnet Contest" Decorate A Visor Activity & Contest

Welaka Spring Market

Vendors
Live Music
Food

HighSchool Bar
9-10am
Circle 10-7

Bring a lawn chair and stay a while to enjoy the music.

Welaka Womens Club
644 CR 309

Sat. April 16th 9-3:pm
Vendor Info: 754.281.5373

Drive Through
Blueberry Pancake Breakfast
Saturday, April 9
8:00-10:00 a.m.
Welaka Woman's Club
644 C.R. 309
\$6 donation

Breakfast includes:
fresh blueberry pancakes with
butter/syrup
bacon or sausage

Tickets: 904-347-7758

He Lives!
Easter Celebration

Friday, April 15 6pm-8pm
See "THE EMPTY TOMB"
Visit "THE INN" to purchase
meals & drinks.



Saturday, April 16, 11am
EASTER EGG HUNT
Hot Dogs for lunch
(Kids up to 11)

Sunday, April 17, 7am
SUNRISE SERVICE
Breakfast Served after the Service



THE CHURCH * First Baptist Church of Welaka
638 CR 309 * Welaka, FL 32193
(386) 467-3251

The Town of Welaka Presents

Food Truck Friday

Join Us:
April 1, 2022 Every First Friday of the month starting 4/1
5:30-8:30pm
Location: **Jefferson Smith Park, Welaka, FL** Open to the Public

DJ spinning your favorite tunes and hosting family friendly games!
Residents and guests are encouraged to bring chairs, blankets, and bug spray.
Come enjoy the festivities!

Details on participants will be posted prior to the event.

JAZZ
UNDER THE LIGHTS
FEATURING SLEEK BAND

April 23, 2022 @ Jefferson/Smith Park 7Pm -10pm
1050 Elm St (across from Dollar General)

Welaka FL

Sponsored by: Town of Welaka... Food & Drinks will be provided by the Welaka slingshot crew (open to the public) for more info contact: Sandra @386-558-0122

APRIL 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Easter Sunday	Trash, Recycling & Yard Debris Pickup	Charter Review Committee Meeting 5:00 PM Welaka Town Hall		Lifesouth Blood Donation Bus 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM Town Hall ARP Open House 6:00PM to 7:00 PM Town Hall	Citizens Advisory Board Meeting 9:00 AM Welaka Town Hall	Town Cleanup 8:00 AM Town Hall Town Easter Egg Hunt 12:00 PM Jefferson Smith Park
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Trash & Recycling Pickup	Welaka Town Council Election 7AM - 7PM The Church of Welaka 683 CR309 Welak		Water Meter Reading Day New Golf Cart Ordinance Workshop 5:30 PM Town Hall	Good Friday The Early Tomb Easter Celebration 6:00 - 8 PM First Baptist of Welaka	Welaka 3rd Saturdays Makers Market Welaka Women's Club 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Easter Egg Hunt 11:00 AM First Baptist of Welaka
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Easter Sunrise Services 7:00 AM First Baptist of Welaka & Welaka Methodist Church	Trash, Recycling & Yard Debris Pickup	Charter Review Committee Meeting 5:00 PM Welaka Town Hall		Zoning Board Meeting 6:00 PM Welaka Town Hall		Jazz Under the Stars 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM Jefferson Smith Park
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Trash & Recycling Pickup	Code Enforcement Meeting 6:00 PM Welaka Town Hall			Arbor Day	